

THE STRADLING COLLECTION

Annual Report and Accounts

for the Year ending 31st Decemebr 2024

Chair's Report

This year marked the start of a journey to creating a more structured approach to the running of the gallery in order remain sustainable in the face of rising costs and increased competition for funding and grants. Whilst we started to receive a modest income from both careful investment of the legacy Ken left from the sale of his house and the rental of the car park, there is still much to be done.

We therefore invested in a senior business development role for six months to put more efficient operational systems in place and raise the profile of the organisation. We also focused more effort into attracting external funding and sponsorship. This resulted in a very welcome grant from Bristol City Council's Originators Fund to support our Collections Project, where students and young people responded to the Collection with their own artistic interpretation of the meaning of the word.

We also introduced consistent ticketing, a decision that was a difficult one after a history of mainly free entry. But we could not financially sustain this business model and felt that entry to three floors and a changing temporary exhibition merited a small charge, with some concessions. We have had an overwhelmingly positive response.



A long look at our programming strategy means we are now planning much further in advance, staging fewer exhibitions but increasing their quality. 60 degrees North, focusing on our rich Scandinavia glass and ceramic Collection and sponsored by Clevedon Salerooms, ran for some five months and was extremely popular. In the last quarter of the year we collaborated with the Women's Engineering Society to showcase Bristols's All Electric House, which attracted a wide visitor profile keen to look back nostalgically at post was domestic design.

We continue to invest in our engagement with young people and students, with interns sponsored by both University of Bristol and Art Fund who bring another rich dimension to The Collection.

Of course a very sad moment in the year was the closure of The Guild in Park Street, where Ken Stradling honed his career as a pioneer in modernist design as both its buyer and, latterly, Managing Director. Nothing will replace it. As we look forward to the future, we continue to be ever grateful to our volunteer stewards without whom none of this would still be possible. Volunteering is a labour of love and we know they all love this Collection as much as we do. Thank you.



Curators Report

2024 was a rewarding year for the Collection and our exhibitions programme. We shared the Collection in new contexts, highlighted key works, and engaged audiences with fresh perspectives on ceramics, glass, and design. These efforts reflected our focus on both caring for and expanding the Collection, and presenting it in meaningful ways.



Exhibitons

The main exhibition of 2024 was 60° North: Scandinavian Design, a 22-week celebration of design from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, drawn from the Stradling Collection and spanning 1935 to the 1980s. Highlights included Alvar Aalto's Stool 60, Arne Jacobsen's table lamp for the SAS Royal Hotel, and Kay Bojeson's iconic teak monkey. Supported by talks and tours, the multimedia exhibition was a great success with visitors of all ages.

In September and October, The Collections exhibition showcased creative work by students from Castle School in Thornbury, Bristol School of Art, Cardiff School of Art and Design, and UWE School of Architecture and Environment, each exploring the question, "What is a collection?" Part of the Stradling Collection's education project led by trustee David Beech, it was inspired by Ken Stradling's personal collection. Students created their own collections across graphics, photography, ceramics, jewellery and furniture. The project encouraged diverse responses, explored personal and historical ideas of collecting, and gave students valuable hands-on experience and skills for future careers in the arts.

October and November brought Electricity: Emancipating Women: The All-Electric House, marking the centenary of the Electrical Association for Women.The exhibition focused on the pioneering All-Electric House, built in Bristol in 1935, which showcased how electricity could transform domestic life and relieve women of household drudgery, opening the door to employment and wider opportunities. Despite being planned and mounted in a short time, the show attracted excellent visitor numbers and many appreciative comments.

We rounded off the year with our traditional festive selling exhibition, Christmas Collection, featuring work by 28 artists and makers, most of them local to Bristol. The exhibition offered visitors the chance to enjoy the Collection while shopping for unique Christmas gifts. As always, it was lively, cheerful, and festive.





The Collection

The Collection remains a living resource, continually growing as new works are added and records refined. This year saw the arrival of several long-term loans that offer fresh perspectives and new connections.

Highlights include two important pots by studio potters Michael Cardew and Ray Finch, key figures in British ceramics, and a Model 31 chair by Alvar Aalto, an icon of modern design. Alongside these additions, work continues on developing the online catalogue in Axiell, updating and enriching records to make the Collection more accessible to a wider audience.

Annual Accounts

THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION

Registered Charity Number 1117689

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

all figures to the nearest £	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	*Last year*
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Legacy	343,873		343,873	*0*
Donations and subscriptions	3,912	500	4,412	*9,982*
Grants	30,054		30,054	*25,038*
Rent	816		816	*0*
Lectures and Tours/Events	1,015		1,015	*1,785*
Sales	6,530		6,530	*3,845*
Interest received	5,173		5,173	*0*
Tax repayment	0		0	*2,095*
	391,373	500	391,873	*42,745*
Asset sales	5,679		5,679	4,227
Loan			0	*0*
	397,052	500	397,552	*46,972*
Resources Expended				
Direct Charitable expenditure (Note 1)	16,288	-	16,288	*35,573*
Other expenditure (Note 1)	52,372		52,372	*12,045*
Asset purchases	0		0	0
Tax payment			0	0
Total Payments	68,660	0	68,660	*47,618*
Excess of Income over Expenditure	328,392	500	328,892	*-646*
Reserves brought forward	31,921		31,921	*32,567*
Reserves carried forward	360,313	500	360,813	*31,921*

These Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 18 September 2025 and were signed on their behalf by

..... 22 September 2025
K. White

THE KEN STRADLING COLLECTION

Registered Charity Number 1117689

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. Resources expended	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	*Last year*
all figures to the nearest £	£	£	£	£
Direct charitable –				
Printing/publicity/exhibitions	3,619		3,619	*3,086*
Grant costs	12,481		12,481	*0*
Administration	188		188	*32,487*
	16,288	-	16,288	*35,573*
Other -				
Staff	37,608		37,608	*0*
Electricity, Rates and Water	4,026		4,026	*3,293*
Storage	2,557		2,557	*0*
Telephone and Communications	641		641	*755*
Other	1,159		1,159	*294*
Insurance	1,622		1,622	*1,701*
Accountancy and Professional Costs	1,632		1,632	*2,810*
Subscriptions	1,047		1,047	*0*
Equipment/Computer	822		822	*421*
Property expenses	756		756	*2,771*
Bank charges	502		502	*0*
	52,372	-	52,372	*12,045*
Acquisitions			0	*2,841*

2. Trustees' emoluments
No emoluments or expenses were paid to the Trustees (2023 - nil).

3. Property
The Charity is the beneficiary of a gift of the building from which it operates together with the adjacent car park. The value of this has not been determined.

THE STRADLING COLLECTION

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